

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image readout method comprising the steps of:

scanning a solid state detector with readout light, the solid state detector comprising: a first conductive layer; at least one photoconductive layer; and a second electrode layer having stripe electrodes formed by a plurality of linear electrodes, stacked in the order listed, which records image data as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with recording light bearing the image data, and generates electric current corresponding to the electrostatic latent image when scanned with the readout light, ~~with the readout light~~;

detecting the electric current output from the linear electrodes by the scanning; and

obtaining an image signal by sampling the detected electric current at a predetermined sampling rate; wherein

a pixel density of an image formed by the image signal, in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes, is changed by changing the scanning speed of the readout light and/or the sampling rate.

2. (original): An image readout method as defined in claim 1, wherein:

a beam width of the readout light, in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes, is changed according to the pixel density in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes.

3. (original): An image readout method as defined in claim 1, wherein:

a pixel density of the image, in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes, is changed by adding the electric current detected for each of the linear electrodes in an analog manner, according to the pixel density in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes.

4. (original): An image readout method as defined in claim 2, wherein:

a pixel density of the image, in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes, is changed by adding the electric current detected for each of the linear electrodes in an analog manner, according to the pixel density in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes.

5. (currently amended): An image readout method comprising the steps of:

scanning a solid state detector with readout light, the solid state detector comprising: a first conductive layer which is transmissive with respect to recording light; a recording light photoconductive layer which exhibits photoconductivity when irradiated with the recording light; a charge accumulating layer that stores image data borne by the recording light as an electrostatic latent image; a readout light photoconductive layer formed from an amorphous substance which exhibits photoconductivity when irradiated with the readout light; and a second conductive layer having stripe electrodes formed by a plurality of linear electrodes, stacked in the order listed, which generates electric current corresponding to the electrostatic latent image when scanned with the readout light, ~~with the readout light~~;

detecting the electric current output from each of the linear electrodes with a current detecting means; and

obtaining an image signal by sampling the electric current, detected by the current detecting means, at a predetermined sampling rate; wherein

a frequency band of the current detecting means is changed according to a readout speed of the electrostatic latent image, in the case that the readout speed is changed by changing a scanning speed of the readout light and the sampling rate in proportion with each other.

6. (original): An image readout apparatus comprising:

a solid state detector comprising: a first conductive layer; at least one photoconductive layer; and a second electrode layer having stripe electrodes formed by a plurality of linear electrodes, stacked in the order listed, which records image data as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with recording light bearing the image data, and generates electric current corresponding to the electrostatic latent image when scanned with readout light, with the readout light;

a readout light scanning means for scanning the solid state detector with the readout light;

a current detecting means for detecting the electric current output from each of the linear electrodes by the scanning with the readout light;

an image signal obtaining means for obtaining an image signal by sampling the detected electric current at a predetermined sampling rate; and

a pixel density changing means for changing a pixel density of an image formed by the image signal, in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes, by changing the scanning speed of the readout light and/or the sampling rate.

7. (original): An image readout apparatus as defined in claim 6, further comprising:

a beam width changing means for changing a beam width of the readout light in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes.

8. (original): An image readout apparatus as defined in claim 6, further comprising:
an adding means for adding the electric current detected from each of the linear electrodes in an analog manner.

9. (original): An image readout apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising:
an adding means for adding the electric current detected from each of the linear electrodes in an analog manner.

10. (original): An image readout apparatus comprising:
a solid state detector comprising: a first conductive layer which is transmissive with respect to recording light; a recording light photoconductive layer which exhibits photoconductivity when irradiated with the recording light; a charge accumulating layer that stores image data borne by the recording light as an electrostatic latent image; a readout light photoconductive layer formed from an amorphous substance which exhibits photoconductivity when irradiated with readout light; and a second conductive layer having stripe electrodes formed by a plurality of linear electrodes, stacked in the order listed, which generates electric current corresponding to the electrostatic latent image when scanned with the readout light, with the readout light;
a readout light scanning means for scanning the solid state detector with the readout light;

a current detecting means for detecting the electric current output from each of the linear electrodes by the scanning with the readout light;

an image signal obtaining means for obtaining an image signal by sampling the electric current, detected by the current detecting means, at a predetermined sampling rate; and

a readout speed changing means for changing the readout speed of the electrostatic latent image by changing the scanning speed of the readout light scanning means and the sampling rate in proportion with each other.

11. (original): An image readout apparatus as defined in claim 10, further comprising:
a frequency band changing means for changing a frequency band of the current detecting means.

12. (new): The image readout apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein one of a plurality of pixel densities in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes is selected and the pixel density changing means changes the scanning speed of the readout light and/or the sampling rate based on the selected pixel density.

13. (new): The image readout apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the pixel density changing means changes the scanning speed of the readout light during a scanning operation and changes the sampling rate during a sampling operation.

14. (new): The image readout apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the beam width changing means changes the beam width based on a selected pixel density which is selected from a plurality of pixel densities in the longitudinal direction of the linear electrodes.